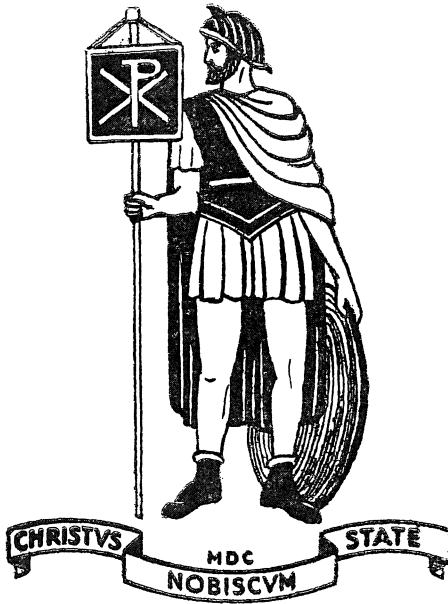


The

Alcester Grammar



School Record

December, 1954

# Alcester Grammar School Record

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No. 109

December, 1954

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*Editor:* Mr. V. V. DRULLER

*Committee:*

Ann Swinglehurst, Beryl Pope, Davis, Pinfield, Finnemore

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## OLD SCHOLARS' GUILD

*President:* Mrs. M. Feast.

*Treasurer:* G. P. Baylis.

*Joint Secretaries:* G. H. Canning, J. Hopkins.

### Summer Reunion

The Summer Reunion was held at the School on Saturday, July 17th, by kind permission of the Governors and the Headmaster. Owing to rain, the tennis tournament which was to have taken place in the afternoon had to be cancelled. In the evening, proceedings began with an excellent meal prepared by Mrs. Rutter and her staff. The President welcomed all Old Scholars, husbands and wives, together with Mr. and Mrs. Davison and members of the School Staff.

After supper there followed the usual business meeting. The Secretary made reference to the poor support given by Old Scholars to the Committee when dances were arranged. He asked particularly for suggestions from younger members which might result in a more suitable reward for the efforts of their committee on such occasions.

This meeting was followed by dancing in the hall until midnight, when the Reunion closed with "Auld Lang Syne" and the Grand Goodnight.

### Winter Reunion

The date arranged for the Winter Reunion of the Guild is Saturday, December 18th. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance.

### Dance

A dance has also been arranged, to be held at Great Alne Memorial Hall on Friday, January 7th. Reg Roberts' band will provide the music. Tickets will be five shillings each and will be on sale at the Winter Reunion.

**SCHOOL REGISTER****VALETE**

- \*Bolt, R. M. (VI), 1947-54.  
 \*Bunting, J. (VI), 1948-54.  
 \*Bunting, M. (VI), 1941-54.  
 \*Dormand, G. S. (VI), 1951-54.  
 \*George, S. K. (VI), 1948-54.  
 \*Goward, B. (VI), 1952-54.  
 \*Palmer, A. (VI), 1946-54.  
 \*Paxton, M. J. (VI), 1947-54.  
 Beard, D. G. (Va), 1949-54.  
 Bennett, E. M. (Va), 1949-54.  
 Bretherton, P. L. (Va), 1949-54.  
 Cooper, E. M. (Va), 1949-54.  
 Craddock, B. (Va), 1949-54.  
 \*Digby, A. C. (Va), 1948-54.  
 Draycott, P. W. (Va), 1949-54.  
 Horton, H. (Va), 1949-54.  
 Lancaster, R. D. (Va), 1949-54.  
 Richards, K. E. (Va), 1949-54.  
 Woodward, C. F. (Va), 1949-54.  
 Allen, J. M. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Aulton, J. R. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Brazier, C. O. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Duxbury, R. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 George, J. A. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Kendall, B. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Langston, J. M. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Mills, E. J. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Milward, K. J. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Morgan, J. A. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 O'Dell, A. E. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Ross, H. B. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Smith, D. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Smith, H. A. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Whittaker, M. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Yeomans, A. (Vb), 1949-54.  
 Hartley, R. G. (IVa), 1951-54.  
 Bullingham, R. H. (IVb), 1950-54.  
 Moss, A. E. (IVb), 1951-54.  
 Newton, J. (IVb), 1950-54.  
 Whiting, B. M. (IVb), 1950-54.  
 Green, R. A. (IIIa), 1951-54.  
 Richards, G. B. (IIIa), 1951-54.  
 Stewart, E. (IIa), 1952-54.

\* Prefect

**SALVETE**

- |                        |                         |                            |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Andrews, M. J. (Ib).   | Dyson, D. M. (Ib).      | Ramsey, J. P. (Ia).        |
| Banfield, T. W. (IIb). | Edwards, M. J. W. (Ia). | Read, M. A. (Ia).          |
| Bates, M. J. (Ib).     | Hall, D. J. (Ib).       | Reading, G. I. (Ia).       |
| Baylis, C. A. (Ia).    | Hancox, D. R. (Ia).     | Root, M. A. (Ib).          |
| Bell, E. V. (Ib).      | Handy, C. D. (Ib).      | Ross, V. M. (Ib).          |
| Bennett, G. (Ib).      | Hemming, M. (Ib).       | Rushton, E. M. (Ia).       |
| Bennett, J. (Ib).      | Hemming, M. J. (Ia).    | Seeney, E. F. (Ib).        |
| Biggs, R. A. (Ia).     | Hemming, P. J. (Ia).    | Sheppard, S. (Ib).         |
| Booker, H. L. (Ia).    | Hinks, J. G. (Ib).      | Smith, M. Y. (Ia).         |
| Bowie, D. C. (Ib).     | Ison, E. A. (Ia).       | Smith, S. A. (Ia).         |
| Bryan, D. J. (Ia).     | Lane, C. G. (Ib).       | Spooner, N. (Ia).          |
| Bullock, B. E. (Ia).   | Langford, R. (Ib).      | Thornton, D. M. (Ia).      |
| Canning, R. J. (Ia).   | Latham, P. W. (Ib).     | Turner, A. W. (Ib).        |
| Chambers, D. L. (Ib).  | Leleu, J. C. (Ib).      | Wellesley-Morris, S. (Ib). |
| Cooper, M. R. (Ia).    | Lewis, A. E. (Ia).      | Wheeler, M. J. (Ia).       |
| Coveney, M. E. (Ia).   | Lovell, P. J. (Ia).     | Wilkes, P. K. (Ib).        |
| Curnock, M. J. (Ib).   | Mertens, G. E. (Ib).    | Wilks, M. J. (Ia).         |
| Day, R. E. (Ib).       | Mills, R. A. (Ib).      | Wilshaw, E. J. (Ia).       |
| Deakins, S. M. (Ia).   | Moulson, J. (IVa).      | Wright, R. L. (Ib).        |
| Draycott, G. (Ia).     | Penney, C. L. (Ia).     | Wright, W. M. (Ib).        |
| Dudley, D. R. (Ia).    | Pirie, J. E. (Ia).      | York, R. M. (Ia).          |
|                        | Prosser, J. D. (Ib).    |                            |

*Admitted last term:*

Woolnough, P. A. (IIIa).

There have been 313 pupils in attendance this term.

### **MARRIAGES**

- On July 3rd, at Bidford-on-Avon, Richard George Byrd to Doreen Etsell (scholar, 1945-50).
- On July 5th, at Alcester, John Wilfred Taylor to Shirley Ann Gregory (scholar, 1947-52).
- On July 16th, at Stratford-on-Avon, Geoffrey Maurice Sweet to Rita Margaret Bladon (scholar, 1945-48).
- On July 17th, at Haselor, Alfred Gordon Westwood to Mary Diana Grace Spencer (scholar, 1943-49).
- On July 17th, at Alcester, Clifford Lovell Sumner to Sheila Vereker (scholar, 1934-43).
- On July 31st, at Beoley, Eric Bamford (scholar, 1938-50) to Janet Davies (scholar 1942-50).
- On August 9th, Donald Eadie (scholar, 1939-47) to Maureen Irving.
- On August 14th, at Colne (Lancs.), Harold Ernest Hadwen (scholar, 1941-47) to Freda Tillotson.
- On August 14th, at Dormston, Anthony Lawrence Bomford to Joan Collins (scholar, 1941-48).
- On August 20th, at Ullenhall, Donald William Thursfield to Norma Elizabeth Wilkinson (scholar, 1944-49).
- On September 4th, at Bidford-on-Avon, Peter James Jennings to Margaret Jean Norris (scholar, 1942-47).
- On September 4th, at Shottery, Michael Habgood to Patricia Fellows (scholar, 1941-46).
- On September 17th, at Stratford-on-Avon, William F. C. Osman to Ruth Margaret French (scholar, 1938-46).
- On September 25th, at Stratford-on-Avon, Peter Wyatt to Sheila M. Spraggett (scholar, 1941-46).
- On October 2nd, at Crabbs Cross, Gerald Charles Tarver (scholar, 1944-49) to Marguerita Gloria Malpass (scholar, 1943-51).
- On October 9th, at Bidford-on-Avon, R. H. Amphlett to Sheila M. Dyke (scholar, 1945-50).
- On October 11th, at Alcester, Kenneth C. Hartland to Norma S. Devey (scholar, 1939-44).
- On October 16th, at Salford Priors, Samuel John Southwell to Hilda M. Malin (scholar, 1940-46).
- On October 23rd, at Headless Cross, Keith Arthur Brookes (scholar, 1943-49) to Angela Mary Riddings.
- On October 30th, at Barry, Charles Hill to Barbara H. Perkins (scholar, 1942-45).
- On October 30th, at Shottery, Gordon Stanley Webb to Elizabeth Muriel Gwynne (scholar, 1944-51).
- On November 1st, at Alcester, Bertram Griffiths to Kathleen Ann Weaver (scholar, 1941-48).
- On November 5th, at Stratford-on-Avon, Mark Willcox to Jill St. Clair Forbes (scholar, 1948).

**BIRTHS**

On May 2nd, to Mr. and Mrs. I. Howie—a son.  
 On July 17th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Faulkner (née Beryl Jensen)—a daughter.  
 On August 2nd, to Mr. and Mrs. E. James (née Barbara Hemming)—a son.  
 On September 7th, to Mr. and Mrs. B. Hodginson—a daughter.  
 On October 5th, to Mr. and Mrs. G. Martin (née Pamela Feast)—a son.  
 On October 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Drinkwater (née Doreen Green)—  
 a son.

**OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS**

Mrs. R. E. Moore (née Ruth Dixon) wishes to thank the many school friends who have sent her messages of sympathy since the loss of her husband and baby son.

\* \* \*

The following Old Scholars have obtained degrees at Birmingham University:—M. R. Perryman, B.Sc. (Biochemistry) (with 2nd class honours); A. Hadwen, B.Sc. (Chemistry); J. Prestidge, B.Sc. (Physics).

\* \* \*

At Oxford University, V. Adkins has gained an honours degree in Mathematical Physics, and J. Holifield an honours degree in History.

\* \* \*

M. R. Perryman has been awarded the A.B.S.M. (performers) as the result of the examination taken in June.

\* \* \*

E. J. Hadwen has been awarded the Higher National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

\* \* \*

Joan Godwin has recently been appointed Senior Mistress at the County Modern Secondary School, Uffculme, Tiverton.

\* \* \*

Joyce Plesters, who is on the Scientific Staff of the National Gallery, London, took part in the investigations which proved that the Piltdown remains were a hoax. She has had an article on the restoration of pictures published in the "Museums Journal."

\* \* \*

A. Gwinnett has lately published a "History of Alcester," compiled by his father, the late Mr. A. J. Gwinnett.

\* \* \*

Barbara Druller has been selected as goalkeeper for the London University Women's Hockey 1st XI.

\* \* \*

R. Crompton is serving in the Royal Horse Guards.

\* \* \*

A. D. Hall, who is doing his national service, is stationed in Singapore.

\* \* \*

D. Gwynne-Jones, on leave from Nigeria, where he is Education Officer, and his sister, Olwen Gwynne-Jones, who has published several books on the breeding of dogs, paid a flying visit to Alcester during the summer.

In a tennis match, played on Friday, July 16th, between the Old Scholars and the School, the Old Scholars' team consisted of Mavis Bennett, Barbara Druller, Frances Highman, Natalie Williams, Drusilla Mortimore and Gillian Winspear. The School team won by five matches to four.

\* \* \*

A. J. Dalrymple is a wharf assistant at Burutu in Southern Nigeria. In a recent letter to E. Bamford he contrasts the simplicity of travel in England with the greater complexity in Nigeria. In travelling from Lagos to Burutu, he was conveyed successively by African Airways, by car and ferry, and by stern-wheeled paddle steamer, the whole journey taking thirteen hours. Of Burutu he says that it is an island, twelve miles up river, and the largest privately-owned port in the world, its river fleet being second only to that of the Mississippi. Ocean-going vessels of seven thousand tons carry all kinds of cargo to Burutu, where there is room for three vessels of that size at the same time. Its main exports are ground nuts, palm kernels and cocoa beans to Britain. Dalrymple's work is in the customs sheds, expediting the coding and clearing of cargo.

\* \* \*

Margaret McKennan (née Nall) paid a visit to School in the summer while spending a short holiday in England from Southern Rhodesia, where she is in charge of a clinic.

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### THE PANDAS

While my mother and I were staying with my aunt and uncle in Cardiff, during the summer holidays, we were introduced to the most charming couple we have ever met. Their names were Mr. and Mrs. Panda, but they were just affectionately called "The Pandas." They were black. They came to a farewell party before they left England to return to their homeland, Sierra Leone, in West Africa. I was a little apprehensive before they arrived, for I had never come in direct contact with dark-skinned people before, but the moment I set eyes on them my doubts disappeared. Mrs. Panda was a small, plump woman, with a deep coffee-coloured skin that was as smooth as satin. Her colouring was emphasized and enhanced by a pale yellow dress of cotton. She had large brown eyes which gave an impression of wistfulness and immediately drew attention to her serene, beautiful face. Her black hair was coiled neatly on her neck and, as she spoke with her soft voice, she gracefully gestured with her hands.

Her boisterous husband provided a complete contrast, for he was a huge, powerfully-built man, and as he shook my hand I almost winced. His skin was much darker than his wife's. His jollity was infectious, and although he did not sometimes understand the dry wit of some of the Welsh members of the party, his hearty, unaffected laughter could be heard above the rest. He was fascinating when he laughed. He rocked back and forth in his chair, with the whites of his eyes gleaming and his strong white teeth and pale gums contrasting with his black skin.

During the course of the evening they told us many interesting things

about life in their own country. They showed us photographs of their family which they had left at home and whom they were anxious to return to. There were ten children altogether. In one photograph they wore their native costume, which consisted of beads and very little else. However, it was Majo, the youngest, being only four, who captured my heart. They had a photograph of him in his Western clothes. He wore a neat shirt and a little bow tie, and a pair of sweet little trousers. His thick black curls were neatly brushed and his large round innocent eyes lit up his serious little face. But his mother assured me those innocent eyes were very deceiving, for he was always up to some mischief or other.

We were very sorry when it was time for them to go, but everyone roared with laughter as Mr. Panda shook hands with me, indicated my mother, and said: "Look after the old lady."

After we had explained to the bewildered Panda that in England it was not polite to call a lady "old" whatever her age was, he laughed and said that in his country the mother of another generation was always called "the old lady."

We were still laughing as we waved goodbye.

BERYL POPE (VI).

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### TRIP TO FRANCE, 1954

At 3.30 a.m. on Saturday, 21st August, four tired people climbed aboard a coach at Stratford, to be met with a few sleepy greetings from the rest of the party from Alcester Grammar School, that was on its way, under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. McAlister, to spend a week's holiday in France. The coach then proceeded on its way to Folkestone, where the party was to board the Channel steamer to cross the Channel to Boulogne-sur-Mer.

Questions about passports, luggage and money produced an endless babble of excitement from those who stolidly refused to go to sleep.

Labels were distributed by Mr. McAlister, and then a short stop was made before we reached London. We were travelling along the Bayswater Road at 6.30 a.m. and were surprised at the number of people already on their way to work.

We reached Folkestone at 9.30 a.m. and had about an hour to wander around and stretch our legs. We had all passed through customs and were on the *S.S. Canterbury* at 11.30 a.m. but we did not sail until 11.55 a.m.

We docked at Boulogne at 2.30, where some very French porters boarded the boat. I was extremely perturbed when one approached me and spouted huge chunks of French to me. I was so bewildered that the only way that I could answer him was to shake my head and go so red in the face that he must have thought that I would burst a blood vessel on the spot!

However, we passed through the customs in the rather palatial terminal buildings, and met our guide, Pierre, to whom we all became attached—some more than others.

The coach then transported us at one hundred and twenty k.p.h. to Wimereux, nearly exterminating two cyclists in the process.

We settled in at the "Hôtel de la Plage" and had a rather late dinner, which everybody enjoyed, and then made ourselves familiar with Wimereux, which was a small town, appealing in its way, but which had suffered in the war, as evidence still showed.

We soon settled down, although still reluctant to torture the "locals" with our knowledge of the French language. The amusement arcade did a great deal of business with *les Anglais*, as did the various *buvettes*.

On Monday we bathed and lay in the sun. On Tuesday afternoon we visited an English war cemetery, while on the way to Le Touquet, a very attractive seaside resort. On Wednesday morning a shopping expedition was carried out in Boulogne, all of us walking there along the cliffs. Six rather weary people arrived back at the hotel one and a half hours late for lunch, having missed the 'bus from Boulogne, and walked back.

A whole-day trip was made to Belgium on the Thursday. Soon after passing the frontier station we stopped at a park, where one female member of the party became lost in a maze. A second person, again one of the fairer sex, went to the rescue, only to be helped out herself by a male member of the party.

We then proceeded to Ostend, where we had lunch and made a long stop there, and then went on to Bruges, where another stop was made. Most of the girls liked Bruges best, but the boys much preferred Ostend, not, however, in appreciation of the architecture. We all spent freely in Belgium, where things are cheaper than in France.

On the return journey we had a sing-song all the way. At the frontier station a male musician played "Meet Mr. Callahan" in time with a nickel-odeon that was well stocked with English records. We reached the hotel well past the usual time for dinner, and were served with supper.

On Friday morning we found that each key fitted every door of our wing of the hotel, and as several people had had their belongings planted in other people's rooms very mysteriously at night, two members of the party sharing the same room removed all the door handles and put them in their own room, keeping one handle for their own use.

On going to change for bed, every boy found that his pyjamas had been sewn up across the arms and legs, and then tied into tight knots. As the girls were situated quite a distance from our wing a certain adult was immediately placed under suspicion. That night someone's bed went through the floor, but that was because the wood was rotten.

On Saturday morning we made our final purchases, and then packed. We bade farewell to all our friends in the afternoon, and at 6.30 p.m. we sadly boarded the coach for Boulogne. After the rigmarole of customs we finally boarded the boat and reached Folkestone at 9 p.m. We left Folkestone at 9.30, and at 4.30 a.m. on Sunday, 29th August, we descended from the coach at Stratford, more dead than alive, tired but very happy, after a wonderful week's holiday.

B. MILLER (VI).



## NOTES AND NEWS

The Autumn term opened on Tuesday, September 7th, and closes on Wednesday, December 22nd.

\* \* \*

The head boy until half-term was Peace, who has now been succeeded by Davis; the head girl is Pat Palmer.

\* \* \*

Prefects this term are:—*Boys*: Peace, Davis, Cleeton, Miller, Bates, Thornton, Bailey, Baylis, Bolt, Careless, Ledbury, Oseland. *Girls*: Pat Palmer, Sheila Hall, Sally Merris, Barbara Harrison, Ann Lidgey, Beryl Pope, Sheila Winspear, Ruth Highman, Elizabeth Manning, Pamela O'Nions, Jane Rawbone, Ann Swinglehurst.

\* \* \*

Sides captains are:—*Brownies*: Miller, A. Swinglehurst (games), V. Baseley (Arts and Crafts); *Jackals*: Keyte, S. Winspear (games), S. Hall (Arts and Crafts); *Tomtits*: Cleeton, A. Lidgey (games), A. Holt (Arts and Crafts).

\* \* \*

Games captains are:—*Football*: Bates; *Hockey*: S. Winspear; *Netball*: J. Rawbone.

\* \* \*

On Wednesday, July 7th, the VIth form Geography group, with Mr. Petherbridge, joined other schools in Birmingham for a field day.

\* \* \*

On Friday, July 16th, members of the Sixth and Fifth forms attended, with Mr. Hadwen, a meeting at Redditch, organised by the Students' Christian Movement.

\* \* \*

Sports Day was Thursday, July 15th.

\* \* \*

On Monday, July 19th, an outing was organised, by coach, to the Wye Valley.

\* \* \*

The annual Staff v. VIth Form tennis match took place on Tuesday, July 20th, the Staff winning by 171 games to 81. The teams were:—*Staff*: Mr. Davison and Miss Houghton; Mr. Hadwen and Miss Smith; Mr. Winter and Miss Hewitt; Mr. Petherbridge and Miss Young (and Miss Evans); Mr. Thornton and Mrs. Jenkins; Mrs. Harrison and Miss Morris. *Sixth Form*: Peace and S. Merris; Miller and M. Bunting; Davis and A. Palmer; Paxton and S. Hall; Bolt and B. Harrison; Cleeton and J. Bunting; Dormand and S. George.

\* \* \*

In the tennis cup final, played on Wednesday, July 21st, Ann Swinglehurst beat Sheila George, 6—1, 6—2.

\* \* \*

Medical inspections of both boys and girls were held in the early part of November.

Miss Houghton left the Staff at the end of last term. We are pleased this term to welcome Miss B. Nettleton to take charge of the teaching of biology.

\* \* \*

M. Serge Mathieu has come to us this term as Assistant Français.

\* \* \*

At the beginning of term Miss Hazeley, from Sierra Leone, who has been making a study of English schools, came for a month to Alcester Grammar School. She gave several interesting talks on life in her homeland.

\* \* \*

In July, a party from Form IIIa, with Miss Webley and Miss Young, visited the cinema at Stratford-on-Avon to see a matinee performance of the film "Julius Cæsar."

\* \* \*

At 3 a.m. on Saturday, August 21st, sixteen members of the School, with Mr. and Mrs. McAlister, left Alcester by coach to spend a week in North France. The party stayed at the Hotel de la Plage, Wimereux. The weather was generally good, and bathing was possible on most days. There were three excursions: to Ostende and Bruges, to Calais and Cap Gris Nez, and to Le Touquet.

\* \* \*

Half Term was Monday and Tuesday, November 1st and 2nd.

\* \* \*

On Saturday, October 9th, the hockey 1st XI competed in the Warwickshire Inter-Schools Hockey Tournament at Leamington, in which they became runners-up.

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### SNOW

Which ever way we choose to go  
We can't escape the falling snow.  
We shut our eyes, wet with its tears,  
But it still nestles in our ears.

We stop our ears, with mittened hand,  
But still it drifts like pure-white sand.  
Our footsteps look like ghostly paces;  
Then it smooths out all the traces.

All the walking we have done  
Is but a journey not begun,  
While silently, on every hand  
Steals the white beauty o'er the land.

J. SHEPPARD (IIa).

### LES PAQUERETTES

During the summer holidays I visited France with a party from School, consisting of members of the Fourth Form upwards.

The trip started at Alcester at two o'clock in the morning, and we travelled by coach to Folkestone, where, after passing through the customs and having had a chalk mark put on our cases, we were allowed to board the boat. We had a pleasant crossing, and soon after arriving at Boulogne we were passing through the French customs saying: "Rien à déclarer."

We travelled by coach from Boulogne to our hotel, which was in Wimereux, about three miles away. What a drive! Before we had got out of the harbour enclosure we thought we had hit a brick wall, and for the rest of the journey we were travelling at over a hundred kilometres an hour, tooting at every car in sight. This, I might add, was my first experience of continental driving.

On arriving at our hotel we were taken straight through the main building and placed in a rather shabby building which was on the verge of falling down. This outhouse was inscribed with the name "Les pâquerettes," and thus remained the biggest joke of the trip. After several protests, the next day we were moved into the main building, where there was even cold water laid on!

Towards the end of our stay most of us were running out of money, and I and many others had to change some of the English money that we had brought for the homeward journey. Although I changed some money I still only possessed five francs when we left France.

On the Friday night, the last night of our stay, we did not get to bed very early, owing to the fact that a few questions needed answering. The first one was: Who were the needlework artists who sewed our pyjamas up?, and secondly: Who was the bright boy who had so kindly upturned our beds? In the morning we sorted it all out, but nobody has yet explained why the legs of the bed of a certain member of the party went through the floor and covered the landlord's kitchen with plaster. At least, not accurately!

At five o'clock, a week after we had left England, we were boarding the boat for home. Everyone had enjoyed the trip and, even if we didn't learn any French, we do at least know that "Les pâquerettes" means "the daisies."

M. FINNEMORE (Va).

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### WANDERING WESTWARDS

Our third annual School trip took place on Monday, July 19th, 1954, when ninety-nine pupils and staff visited the Malverns, the Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean. We were very lucky with the weather.

We left School at 9.10 a.m. in three "Black and White" coaches (luckily, more powerful than those of last year) and we managed to keep to schedule throughout the whole journey.

Our first stop was at "British Camp," which is one of the best viewpoints in the Midlands, which we climbed with only minor mishaps.

We then continued our journey via Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye to

Symond's Yat, where the whole party went for a trip on the River Wye, swollen by recent rains. One of the launches was very temperamental, but we all managed to get back safely. En route we saw a rare specimen of a tulip tree, a Swiss chalet, two rope ferries, all to the accompaniment of two guardian dogs barking at each other from their respective boats.

We ate a packed lunch after disembarkation, and then set out on the next stage of our journey, to Monmouth.

We then continued down the Wye Gorge as far as a pre-arranged map reference, where we got out and walked a quarter of a mile up a bye-road, trying to find that relic of the defence system of one of the ancient kings of Mercia who tried to protect his kingdom against the Welsh. I refer to Offa's Dyke, which, in this district, either cuts off Monmouthshire from the rest of England, or proves it to be in Wales. Today the Dyke presents no barrier at all; in fact, the leading party of our own group walked straight over it without realising that it was there. However, with the help of our map, it was discovered, running along the steep hillside for some distance.

Then, returning to the coaches, we continued across the river and on down the picturesque Wye Valley to Tintern, where we visited the ruins of the Abbey. The guide told us of the very severe way of living which the monks had to follow, and gave us a detailed description of all the rooms. When he had finished, he congratulated us on our behaviour and said he thought we were a model school. So, with halos sparkling and wings sprouting, we continued to Chepstow, where we explored the castle and enjoyed a very nice tea at the Castle Hotel.

At six o'clock we left Chepstow and made our next stop, which caused the village shop to re-open, at St. Briavels, where we saw a particularly interesting example of a cut-off meander.

From St. Briavels we continued, via Coleford, Cinderford and Mitcheldean, through the Forest of Dean, where we caught glimpses of coal mines amongst the trees. A coalfield in a truly rural setting!

After a short break at Tewkesbury for refreshment, we reached Evesham slightly ahead of schedule, whence coaches left for Stratford, Alcester and Studley.

R. M. BOLT.

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### THE MONSTER

There was a very thick fog as my friend and I were walking home from school. We turned the corner and as we did so, we heard a terrible noise, just like the growling of a big monster. We were very frightened, and stepped into someone's gateway. The noise came nearer and nearer, and the front part was now visible. There were two very big eyes and two smaller ones, with a piece of metal which moved backwards and forwards.

The noise was, by now, quite deafening, and we were still very frightened. The monster now passed us, and we were very relieved to see that all the time it had been an ordinary blue 'bus. The four eyes had been lights, and the piece of metal had been the windscreen wiper.

We then hurried home before we met any more such monsters.

WENDY DAVIS (IIB).

### THE TRIALS

The day on which the Warwickshire Junior Hockey Trials were to be held dawned damp and dismal. At 6.30 in the morning the outlook was distinctly bleak, but for once the suspense of anticipating a cancellation did not arise. That 7.30 Birmingham 'bus had to be caught.

Arriving at the bus-stop, my spirits unusually bright, I was mildly surprised to find several other people waiting there. One or two, faces suitably vacant for the early hour, gazed on me with awe, their eyes continually straying to my sports bag with hockey stick protruding. One good lady expressed the seemingly quite sincere desire to play hockey on such a day—in steady rain and oozing mud.

The inevitable relapse of my spirits soon followed. There can be little more disheartening than to sit on the top deck of a 'bus—hockey bag safely stowed downstairs—and watch sheets of spray churned up by the wheels of the 'bus, the flooded streams coursing along through swampy fields, and the heavy, sombre clouds piling up all around.

The sight of two girls walking through Birmingham, obviously hopeful of a hockey match, might be amusing to some. Others, however, bestowed on us looks of mingled sympathy and curiosity. Eventually we arrived at the school ground; and, having been shown the dressing room, were told not to change into our kit, as there was a possibility of cancellation. So we stood about, listening to the varying opinions on the chances of play expressed by subsequent arrivals. However, we soon observed, with satisfaction, the groundsman out on the pitch, liberally scattering with sawdust the goal-mouths and centre spot.

It was decided to make a start, so, while quite pleasurably anticipating several happy landings in the yielding mud, and consequently a luxurious hot shower, we changed into our kit. But, foiling this happy surmise, came the news that we were to play on a hard pitch!

We two, clad quite outstandingly in red, had the benefit of watching a match before it was our turn to play. This we did from the school. The comments to be heard about the play were quite devastating to one's morale—"Not very fast is it?" "Oh—she's missed it." "That hard pitch shows up your stick-work, doesn't it?" "She's missed it again and I bet she'll be in the first team—she was last year!"

Then it was our turn to play, and we went out determined to have a good game. The hard pitch was not so difficult as we had thought. After about fifteen minutes, the whistle went and we stopped playing to find water trickling, irritatingly, down our faces. Several of us were soon told, apparently quite finally, that we might go and change, and so we trudged off, thoroughly wet and cold, across the saturated turf on which we had hoped to play. Our seemingly irrepressible sporting spirit was quite dampened.

Arriving back at the "Visitors' Changing Room," we found our urge for a shower had been completely submerged—no one could work the apparatus satisfactorily, anyway; all we could get was a cold splash. When all had returned from the field and were as dry as possible, an invasion was made of the tuck shop within the school building—to us a rather fabulous sounding establishment.

After such a thorough soaking, the restoration of our former neat appearances was almost impossible and so, appetites having been satisfied, we departed, acquiring an increasingly carefree spirit as we passed up the school drive and out through the iron gates of the entrance.

ANN SWINGLEHURST (VI).

### **SURPRISE**

Sally lay in bed thinking. This was not unusual, as Sally often daydreamed. She was a dark, curly-haired child of ten, not particularly brainy, but known to all the neighbours around as an animal lover.

Her bedroom was very dark, and the draught from her window had blown out her candle, which had shed its eerie shadows on the walls. Everything was quiet except for the ticking of the old grandfather clock, which had stood in just the same place ever since Sally could remember. Now it chimed three o'clock. Sally started: "Whatever would Mummy say if she knew that I was still awake?" and tried extra hard to lose herself in slumber. She pressed her weary eyelids down tightly, but still she could not sleep. Was she imagining it, or was it really a noise downstairs? Yes, it must, thought Sally, as she heard the faint scratching noise again. Probably it is a mouse; it soon will stop scratching the wood. Next time Sally heard the noise, there was a faint squeak with it, much too loud for a mouse. Sally felt her heart beat faster, and pulled the bedclothes closer round her. "No," she firmly told herself, "I must be hearing things." But she was not, for the noise came again, and again. The noise was now louder and sounded like a whimper. Sally tried to fathom from where the noise came, and decided on the hall or the dining room. Sally crept out of bed and was determined to seek out the noise, heard it, and quickly scurried back into bed. "No," she told herself, firmly, "I must find out what is causing the noise." However, it took her several minutes to pluck up her courage, and she once again crept out of bed and felt her way along the landing, making sure that her parents would not hear. She found the banisters and gingerly placed one foot on the top stair. Slowly, very slowly, she descended the stairs, making sure to miss out the fifth step as it always creaked. However, in her nervousness, Sally counted wrongly and missed out the fourth step, and landed heavily on the fifth, which immediately creaked. Sally held her breath. What if her mother saw her now! It would certainly mean trouble. Nothing stirred, however, and Sally continued to feel her way down stairs. She took one step in the hall when she heard the noise again, much louder, and Sally nearly turned and ran upstairs. Slowly she walked towards the place where the whimper had come from, along the passage, past the dining room, until she arrived at the front door. She waited to make sure that the noise had come from the doorstep. Then she lifted the latch of the front door and carefully pulled it open. Sally peered down at the ground, and then knew what had caused the mysterious noise. She felt a cold, wet, furry body rub round her legs. She swooped down and clasped the furry bundle to her face. "Monty, Monty, my darling kitten, and we all thought you were lost for ever."

MARY NORDEN (IVa).

**SPORTS DAY, 1954**

Week after week of un-summerlike weather marked by low temperatures and rain, provided a very depressing prelude to Sports Day, which had been arranged for the third Thursday of July. But when the day itself arrived, it brought weather conditions which left little to be desired and, even though the tracks were somewhat soft, the full programme of events was carried through in pleasant sunshine.

On this occasion certain innovations were introduced; these included staggered starts and, in two instances, the deciding of two events concurrently. For the first time, separate awards were made for games and sports, which had, hitherto, been combined in the one shield. The printed programmes of a more ambitious time gave much fuller information to the many parents, Old Scholars and friends who had gathered for this annual meeting.

Indoors, the usual display of Arts and Crafts work had been arranged in the Hall and the Art Room, and attracted the keen interest of visitors.

Awards for Sports and Arts and Crafts competitions were kindly presented to successful competitors by Miss C. E. Chapman, and the afternoon's entertainment concluded with the singing of the School Song.

**RESULTS**

(B—Brownies, J—Jackals, T—Tomtits)

\* Indicates a new record.

**OVER FIFTEEN****Boys**

100 yards—1 Allen (T), 2 Finnemore (B), 3 Davis (B), 4 Dormand (J). (Time: 11.3 secs.)

220 „ 1 Allen (T), 2 Finnemore (B), 3 Peace (T), 4 Whittaker (B). (Time: 27.1 secs.)

440 „ 1 Finnemore (B), 2 Keyte (J), 3 Walker (B), 4 Bolt ii (J). (Time: 59.4 secs.)

880 „ 1 Finnemore (B), 2 Whittaker (B), 3 Davis (B), 4 Keyte (J). (Time: 2 mins. 20.6 secs.)

Hurdles (105 yards)—1 Dormand (J), 2 Finnemore (B), 3 Walker (B). (Time: 16.5 secs.)

The Mile—1 Finnemore (B), 2 Whittaker (B), 3 Davis (B), 4 Keyte (J). (Time: 5 mins. 12 secs.)

High Jump—1 Seeney (T), 2 Careless (T), 3 Bailey (T), 4 Hodson (J). (Height: 4 ft. 10 ins.)

Cross Country—1 Whittaker (B), 2 Finnemore (B), 3 Miller (B), 4 Davis (B). (Time: 25 mins. 28.4 secs.)

Throwing the Cricket Ball—1 Bates (T), 2 Whittaker (B), 3 Miller (B). (Distance: 79 yds. 1 ft. 9 ins.)

Obstacle—1 Hawthorne (B), 2 Peace (T), 3 Walker (B), 4 Paxton (T).

**Girls**

100 yards—1 H. Smith (B), 2 R. Highman (J), 3 P. O'Nions (J). (Time: 13 secs.)

220 „ 1 H. Smith (B), 2 P. O'Nions (J), 3 A Davis (T), 4 P. Draycott (T). (Time: 30.3 secs.)

Hurdles—1 P. O'Nions (J), 2 A. Swinglehurst (B), 3 A. Davis (T). (Time: 13.1 secs.)

High Jump—1 B. Whitehouse (B), 2 P. O'Nions (J), 3 S. George (B), 4 H. Smith (B). (Height: 4 ft. 5 ins.)

Throwing the Rounders Ball—1 A. Lidgley (T), 2 P. O'Nions (J), 3 B. Whitehouse (B). (Distance: 53 yds. 1 ft. 5 ins.)

Long Jump—1 A. Davis (T), 2 P. O'Nions (J), 3 H. Smith (B), 4 J. Rawbone (J). (Distance: 14 ft. 2½ ins.)\*

Obstacle—1 P. Draycott (T), 2 A. Lidgley (T), 3 A. Holt (T), 4 P. Husband (J).

THIRTEEN—FIFTEEN—Boys

100 yards—1 Parker (T), 2 Gill (J), 3 Ludlow (T), 4 Rouse (T). (Time: 11.8 secs.)  
 220 „ 1 Parker (T), 2 Stowe (T), 3 Gill (J), 4 Cooke ii (B). (Time: 28.2 secs.)  
 880 „ 1 Gill (J), 2 Stowe (T), 3 Parker (T), 4 Nixon (B). (Time: 2 mins. 29.2 secs.)\*  
 Hurdles—1 Parker (T), 2 Ludlow (T), 3 Stowe (T), 4 Rouse (T). (Time: 12.9 secs.)  
 High Jump—1 Brazier (J), 2 Ludlow (T), 3 Stowe (T), 4 Parker (T). Height: 4 ft. 8½ ins.)\*  
 Cross Country—1 Gill (B), 2 Rouse (T), 3 Nixon (B), 4 Stowe (T). (Time: 15 mins. 4.4 secs.)  
 Throwing the Cricket Ball—1 Cooke ii (B), 2 Gill (J), 3 Brazier (J). (Distance: 75 yds. 1 ft. 6 ins.) (Brazier made a new record of 79 yds. 1 ft. 2½ ins. in a heat.)  
 Obstacle—1 Ludlow (T), 2 Parker (T), 3 Feast (J), 4 Robinson (J).

Girls

100 yards—1 N. Goldby (J), 2 C. Down (J), 3 J. Burford (J), 4 P. Smith (J). (Time: 12.9 secs.)  
 150 „ 1 N. Goldby (J), 2 J. Burford (J), 3 P. Smith (J), 4 J. Bullock (J). (Time: 19.9 secs.)  
 High Jump—1 J. Burford (J), 2 N. Goldby (J), 3 C. Down (J), 4 J. Bullock (J). (Height: 4 ft. 5½ ins.)\*  
 Throwing the Rounders Ball—1 N. Goldby (J), 2 F. Jackson (B), 3 P. Smith (J). (Distance: 54 yds. 11 ins.)\*  
 Long Jump—1 J. Burford (J), 2 N. Goldby (J), 3 J. Bullock (J), 4 A. Compson (J). (Distance: 14 ft. 6½ ins.)\*  
 Hurdles—1 N. Goldby (J), 2 J. Burford (J), 3 J. Bullock (J), 4 A. Grosvenor (T). (Time: 12.2 secs.)  
 Obstacle—1 P. Smith (J), 2 A. Compson (J), 3 J. Manning (T), 4 J. Bullock (J).

UNDER THIRTEEN—Boys

100 yards—1 Sheppard ii (T), 2 Shakles (J), 3 Evans (T), 4 Ross iii (T). (Time: 13.3 secs.)  
 220 „ 1 Sheppard ii (T), 2 Shakles (J), 3 Ross iii (T), 4 Danks (T). (Time: 31.4 secs.)  
 880 „ 1 White (J), 2 Shakles (J), 3 Mills iii (J), 4 Meddings (B). (Time: 2 mins. 44.1 secs.)  
 High Jump—1 Ross iii (T), 2 Beale (J), 3 Harris ii (T), 4 Mills iv (J) and White (J). (Height: 3 ft. 11 ins.)  
 Obstacle—1 Ross iii (T), 2 Danks (T), 3 Hopkins (B), 4 Mills iii (J).  
 Throwing the Cricket Ball—1 Cooke iii (J), 2 White (J), 3 Mills iii (J). (Distance: 56 yds. 1 ft. 0½ in.)

Girls

75 yards—1 M. Millward (T), 2 J. Parton (J), 3 C. Ridgewell (T), 4 D. Gould (J). (Time: 10.3 secs.)  
 150 „ 1 M. Millward (T), 2 S. Dyson (B), 3 C. Ridgewell (T), 4 M. Sutor (B). (Time: 21.9 secs.)  
 High Jump—1 W. Davis (T) and M. Millward (T), 3 C. Ridgewell (T), 4 C. Burton (J). (Height: 4 ft. 0½ ins.)  
 Throwing the Rounders Ball—1 C. Ridgewell (T), 2 S. Dyson (B), 3 W. Yates (B). (Distance: 37 yds. 1 ft. 8½ ins.)  
 Obstacle—1 M. Rogers (T), 2 Y. Westwood (B), 3 J. Ross (J), 4 M. Hemming (T).  
 Long Jump—1 A. Lloyd (B), 2 C. Ridgewell (T), 3 S. Dyson (B), 4 W. Davis (T). (Distance: 11 ft. 10 ins.)\*

OTHER EVENTS

Relay (Boys) (24 x 110 yards)—1 Tomtits, 2 Brownies. (Time: 5 mins. 49.9 secs.)  
 Relay (Upper School Boys) (8 x 110 yards)—1 Brownies, 2 Tomtits. (Time: 1 min. 51.5 secs.)  
 Relay (Lower School Boys) (8 x 110 yards)—1 Tomtits, 2 Brownies. (Time: 1 min. 58.2 secs.)  
 Relay (Upper School Girls) (8 x 110 yards)—1 Jackals, 2 Tomtits. (Time: 2 mins. 2.2 secs.)  
 Relay (Lower School Girls) (8 x 110 yards)—1 Jackals, 2 Brownies. (Time: 2 mins. 8.3 secs.)  
 Tug-of-War—No result (rope broke).



The following presentations were made:—

- Victor Ludorum Cup—Finnemore (40 points).  
 Victrix Ludorum Cup—Pamela O'Nions (23 points).  
 Junior Victrix Ludorum Cup—Norma Goldby (31 points).  
 Cross Country Cup—Brownies.  
 Champion Games Side—Jackals.  
 Bronze Medals—Davis, Allen, Ludlow, Stowe, Rouse, White, Shakles, Sheppard ii,  
 Ross iii, Ann Lidgely, Ann Davis, Sybil Dyson, Josephine Parton.  
 Silver Medals—Whittaker, Finnemore, Parker, Gill, Jill Burford, Norma Goldby,  
 Margaret Millward, Christine Ridgewell, Hilary Smith, Pamela  
 O'Nions.  
 Sports Shield—Jackals (337 points). Tomtits scored 290 points and Brownies 272 points.

#### ARTS AND CRAFTS

The following are the results of this year's competitions:—

- Bronze Medals—Barbara Harrison, Mary Bunting, Finnemore, Sheila Hall, Kathleen  
 Edwards.  
 Silver Medals—Ann Holt, Lewis ii, Jill Bunting.  
 "Edith Deans" Memorial Trophy—Jill Bunting.  
 Arts and Crafts Shield—Brownies (1032 points). Tomtits scored 774 points and  
 Jackals 693 points.

#### OLLA PODRIDA

The golden calf, writes N.R., came out of the burning bush.

\* \* \*

Respiration in the lungs, according to G.M., is the cause of hiccoughs  
 when your body moves.

\* \* \*

In the wood, C.S. informs us, they met another couple who were  
 following them.

\* \* \*

M.M. tells us that a place where rifles are stored is known as a shottery.

\* \* \*

When we go in to lunch, says G.H., we should do nothing but eat and  
 drink.

\* \* \*

A person who has lived for a hundred years is known variously as a  
 centinel (J.L.), a centaur (V.B.) and a centagon (F.M.).

\* \* \*

J.H. writes that Mr. Pepys and his wife licked their new carriage very  
 much.

\* \* \*

Citizens, R.S. says, record their votes at a ballet-box.

\* \* \*

A ladder was used by the angels, according to R.M., to climb from earth  
 to heaven.

\* \* \*

The whole mass of air which surrounds the earth is called, writes J.D.,  
 the hemisphere.

\* \* \*

P.R. declares that he is vacant at the moment.

**THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER**

The fifth of November is a very exciting day, because we let off our fireworks. I remember last year we had the bonfire in the field opposite our house. Nearly all the children down the lane came to this field. We lit the fire just after it was dark. It was a rather hard job to get it to light at first, but eventually we succeeded. It was a big fire and gave out a lot of heat when it was really blazing away.

Then we started to let the fireworks off. There was a bang every few minutes, and we could hear some fireworks going off in the distance as well. Some of the fireworks were so bright that when they died down you could not see properly afterwards. Quite a few rockets were let off, and they lit up the sky, but they did not last very long. I was very disappointed when I lit one of my rockets, as it went up into the air and died down almost immediately. It was getting very late by now, and the fire had almost gone out. My mother fetched me in then and said it was time for me to go to bed.

JACQUELINE RAMSAY (Ia).

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**AUTUMN LEAVES**

The leaves are softly falling,  
The trees are growing bare.  
And still the leaves keep floating down,  
And gliding through the air.

The leaves of gold and red  
Come swinging down to earth,  
Where they lie, drifting aimlessly,  
Like ships without a berth.

And when the trees are leafless,  
And a red-gold sheen around,  
We will think how, in the summer,  
There were no leaves on the ground.

How the leaves upon the trees  
Were green and never gold.  
And we will to each other say,  
"The year is waxing old."

ALISON JONES (IIIa).

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**I START SCHOOL**

On a Wednesday morning in February drear  
I took the exam that brought me here.

In new uniform all spick and span,  
My Grammar School days now began.

At first I found it strange to go  
With other girls I did not know.

But very soon I settled down  
With the new friends that I had found.

So here I am, prepared to do  
My very best the whole day through.

GILLIAN READING (Ia).

## OXFORD EXAMINATIONS FOR GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

In the examinations held in June-July the following pupils obtained certificates:—

### SIXTH FORM

A—Advanced level.

O—Ordinary level.

R. M. Bolt, *French (A), Geography (A), Pure Mathematics (A)*; M. Bunting, *Geography (A), Zoology (starred paper)*; B. Goward, *English (A), French (A), History (A)*; S. A. Hall, *History (A), Geography (A), English (O)*; A. Palmer, *English (A), History (A), Geography (O)*; M. J. Paxton, *Geography (A), Pure Mathematics (A), Applied Mathematics (A)*; J. E. Peace, *Geography (A), Pure Mathematics (A)*; G. S. Dormand, *Biology (O)*; S. K. George, *Mathematics (O), Biology (O)*; P. Palmer, *Zoology (starred paper)*.

### FIFTH FORM

All ordinary level.

J. M. Allen, *English Language, Mathematics*; J. R. Aulton, *English Language, English Literature, Art, Mathematics*; T. O. Bailey, *English Language, English Literature, French, Geography, Biology*; P. Bates, *English Language, English Literature, History, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry*; V. H. Baseley, *English Language, English Literature, Latin, French, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology*; R. G. Baylis, *English Language, English Literature, French, Mathematics, Chemistry*; D. G. Beard, *English Language, English Literature, Art, Mathematics, Physics*; E. M. Bennett, *English Language, French*; P. R. Bolt, *English Language, History, Geography*; C. O. Brazier, *English Language, English Literature, History*; P. L. Bretherton, *English Language, English Literature, Art, Biology*; D. R. Careless, *English Language, English Literature, French, Geography, Art, Mathematics, Chemistry*; E. M. Cooper, *English Language, English Literature, Latin, French, History, Geography*; B. Craddock, *English Language, English Literature, French, History, Mathematics, Biology*; A. C. Digby, *Needlework*; P. W. Draycott, *English Language, English Literature, Art, Biology, Needlework*; R. Duxbury, *Mathematics*; J. A. George, *English Language, English Literature, Art*; R. M. Highman, *English Language, English Literature, French, History, Art, Mathematics, Biology, Needlework*; H. Horton, *English Language, English Literature, French, History, Mathematics, Chemistry*; S. P. Hunt, *English Language, English Literature, French, History, Geography, Art, Mathematics*; P. F. Husband, *English Language, English Literature, Needlework*; B. Kendall, *English Language, English Literature, French, History*; R. D. Lancaster, *English Language, English Literature, French, History, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry*; J. M. Langston, *English Language, English Literature, French*; M. W. Ledbury, *English Language, English Literature, Geography, Mathematics, Chemistry*; A. L. Lidgey, *English Language, English Literature, Latin, History, Geography, Biology*; E. F. Manning, *English Language, English Literature, French, Geography, Art, Mathematics*;

E. J. Mills, *English Literature, History, Geography, Art*; J. A. Morgan, *English Language*; A. E. O'Dell, *English Language, English Literature, History, Art*; P. D. O'Nions, *English Language, English Literature, History, Art, Mathematics, Biology*; W. C. Oseland, *English Language, English Literature, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology*; B. Pope, *English Language, English Literature, Latin, French, Geography, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology*; J. E. Rawbone, *English Language, English Literature, History, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology*; K. E. Richards, *English Language, English Literature, Latin, History, Mathematics, Biology*; H. B. Ross, *Mathematics*; D. Smith, *Mathematics*; H. A. Smith, *Art, Needlework*; E. A. Swinglehurst, *English Language, English Literature, Latin, French, History, Geography, Mathematics, Biology*; A. W. Thornton, *English Language, English Literature, French, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology*; M. Whittaker, *English Language, History, Mathematics*; C. F. Woodward, *English Language, English Literature, French, History, Mathematics, Biology*; A. Yeomans, *English Language, English Literature, French, History, Mathematics, Chemistry, Needlework*.

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### NATIONAL SAVINGS

At the time of writing this report the views of your Honorary Secretary towards National Savings are more than usually genial. This is partly because we have had a most satisfying year, the six-monthly return for the period ending September 30th being £378. That made the total for the twelve months, £586, which is better than we have achieved for a number of years.

Partly, however, my pleasure is the result of the fact that, for once, the work has brought its own reward. There are nearly half a million voluntary workers like myself in the National Savings movement, so that it was something of a thrill to be one of the 2,600 present at the Royal Festival Hall, in London, on October 26th, when the Duke of Edinburgh inaugurated the winter campaign for TWO MILLION NEW SAVERS.

This type of Rally is not an annual event, and the pageantry involved, together with the stirring fanfares of the Royal Military School of Music, and the blinding glare of the television spotlights, made it an exciting and unforgettable experience.

Nor were the speeches without interest. Lord Mackintosh particularly delighted those of us from the West Midlands when he announced that the holding of the present issue of certificates was to be raised from 700 to 1,000, because that was a recommendation from our own Regional Conference, held at Stratford-on-Avon on October 2nd, and at that time he could make no promises. How we exulted at such success!

The Chancellor of the Exchequer supported the campaign, because, he said, an increase in savings avoided inflation. It also enabled him, he pointed out, to give one or two tax reliefs, because it was possible with a high level of savings to "get along with a rather smaller surplus in the Budget." He indicated that the more we saved, the less tax we would pay—we hoped!

Mr. Hugh Gaitskell also spoke highly of the work done by the movement. He commented on the fact that politicians "argue and scrap and squabble

about so many things," but were united in supporting National Savings. He came to the same conclusion as the Duke of Edinburgh, that it was "good for the nation and good for the individual."

In his customary, direct manner, the Duke had told us that we killed two birds with one stone. "The money put away," he said, "is for one's own benefit, for old age, or a holiday, or whatever it happens to be . . . and while it is put away, it is being put to work for the National good."

How this is done is best explained, perhaps, in the message of goodwill sent to us by Mr. Clement Davies. "The country," he writes, "needs capital for new enterprises, for new machinery and plant, for new buildings and factories. Every pound saved by each of us is available for the supply of the capital that is needed."

It was all very heartening to have politicians of all parties praising to the skies the work with which one was so closely connected, and left a glow of satisfaction that was impervious to the dank, dirty, dismal London rain into which we emerged, and the crowded foodless train journey which followed. I, for one, found it an inspiring experience, because it left me convinced that National Savings were really worthwhile, and if this article will convince even one parent to induce one pupil to put at least some pocket money into National Savings, my efforts in reporting this Rally will not have been in vain.

MISS J. YOUNG (*Hon. Sec.*)

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### THE COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

*Secretary:* S. Winspear.

*Treasurer:* A. Lidgely.

The Society this year mainly consists of the Upper School, with a number of the second form. We purchased two new records this term and we still have quite a large sum of money from our weekly subscriptions. This term we are attempting sword dancing and are progressing quite well, although we have broken four wooden swords. Another new venture in our Society is the singing of folk songs. We hope to include these two items in our Christmas parties which the Upper and Lower School may attend at the end of the term.

ANN LIDGEY.

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### THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

This term many new members have joined our Society. We have had three lectures, two on negative development and one on aids to better prints.

Our new members have shown keen interest, especially in the enlarger, and we hope they are going to make good use of it.

PAULINE DAVIS (*Hon. Sec.*)

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### AERO-MODELLING SOCIETY

The Society has about twenty members, who are constructing various types of aeroplanes. The Wireless Section has been constructing and repairing crystal sets.

### DRAMATIC SOCIETY

*President:* Keyte.

*Treasurer:* S. Hall.

*Secretary:* Bolt.

*Social Secretary:* S. Merris.

Autumn Term found us with many new members because many of our stalwarts had left school in July. Catherine Brazier, we are pleased to note, has taken up acting as a career, and is training in Birmingham. Later this term we lost the services of our former secretary, Peace, who not only performed his official duties conscientiously, but was also an invaluable character actor.

This term we began as usual with an afternoon of miming titles, and this proved not only extremely entertaining, but also showed us that we had a certain amount of talent among the newcomers. This has enabled us, for example, to cast Lewis as the Headmaster in the current production of the School play: "The Happiest Days of Our Life," by John Dighton, and Careless as the Sports Master, with Linda Croydon as the attractive English mistress. Other new talent included Sheila Hall as Miss Gossage, Bailey as Rainbow, the caretaker, Ann Wesson as Barbara Cahoun and Mary Thomas as the redoubtable Miss Whitchurch.

Former members of the Society providing moral support and constant advice are Keyte as Billings, the cynical senior master; Jennifer Burden as Mrs. Peck, and Bolt as Hopcroft minor, one of the pupils.

We are glad to have the services of several members of other societies to play the parts of the parents: Birch from Cadets, Elizabeth Manning from Country Dancing Class, and Merris from Scouts.

All these are working extremely hard at the moment, learning their parts and rehearsing after school hours, and we earnestly hope that when the play is produced next February all forms will do their best to sell as many tickets as possible, so that their valiant efforts may be financially successful.

P. R. BOLT (*Secretary*).

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### SCOUTS

During this term much progress has been made in the various Scouting tests. These range from Tenderfoot to First Class tests. As Troop meetings have mainly been concerned with games and inter-Patrol competitions, instruction and testing has taken place regularly at dinner-times or after school.

On June 18th, nine scouts, with Mr. Winter, attended a week-end camp at Henley-in-Arden. This camp was enjoyed by all who attended.

It was hoped that certain members of the Troop would attend the Scout Gang Show in London, but as no seats were available we could not go. It is, however, hoped to have a combined Guide and Scout Christmas party, similar to that held last year, at the end of term.

Owing to the re-organisation of the Troop, two new Patrol Leaders have been appointed. A. Edmonds is Patrol Leader of the Bulldog Patrol and A. Ray is Patrol Leader of the Buffalos.

B. R. MERRIS.

### GUIDES

During the summer holidays six of our Company spent an enjoyable ten days camping near Seaton, in Devon, with the 1st Stratford-on-Avon Company.

This term we commenced our Guide meetings by holding an election for new Patrol Leaders and patrols. A. Davis was appointed Company Leader and the new Patrol Leaders are: J. Manning (Blackbirds), M. Norden (Kingfishers), J. Bullock (Robins) and I. Benfield (Swallows).

All Guides have now passed their Tenderfoot Test, and at our last enrolment ceremony we were very pleased to have with us both our District and Division Commissioners. The majority of Guides are now working enthusiastically towards the goal of 2nd Class.

During the first week in November, the Company went to work with a will earning shillings to pay two outstanding debts and lay the foundation of Company funds. The result of this week, when we tackled "anything for a 1/-," was £11 12s.

ANN DAVIS.

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### A.G.S. PLATOON, 7/11th BATTALION, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT, A.C.F.

This year we have a full complement of twenty-three cadets, there being ten new recruits.

The training of these new recruits is proceeding well, and their drill shows promise. Four of the older cadets are still awaiting their "Cert. A, Part I" examination. The Senior Cadets are trained sufficiently to enable them to take "Cert. A, Part II" examinations, which will be held soon.

Two .22 rifles and a quantity of ammunition have been procured, and it is hoped that we shall be given an opportunity to visit the range at the Drill Hall, Stratford, very shortly.

On the weekend, November 5th to November 7th, three N.C.O.'s, Cpl. Birch and L/Cpls. Ledbury and Baylis, attended a camp at Walton Hall, near Wellesbourne Mountford, where they received some useful training.

During last term Cadet Birch successfully took his "Cert. A, Part II" examination and has since been promoted to Corporal. Other promotions of late include those of Cadets Ledbury and Baylis to Lance Corporals, and Corporal Davis to Sergeant.

On several Sunday mornings some senior cadet volunteers have assisted Captain Bell and Lieutenant McAlister to "decorate" the interior of the Cadet Hut, a somewhat amusing time having been had by all concerned.

It is hoped that as our drill, as a squad, improves, we shall be able to attend parades in the vicinity of Alcester, and it appears, by the progress which the new recruits are maintaining, that it may be achieved in a short time.

Sgts. MILLER and DAVIS.

### FOOTBALL

This has been our most successful season, so far, for about three seasons, and both the 1st XI and the under 15 XI have played well. The main reason for the 1st XI's success has been a nearly unchanged team from last year. After-school practices have been held for both teams twice a week and, as a result, better football has been played. Both our 1st XI and under 15 XI have lost only one game each. The following boys have represented the 1st XI: Peace, Bailey, Bolt, Baylis, Bates, Cleeton, Stowe, Ludlow, Careless, Nixon, Gill, Miller, Pinfield. The under 15 XI has been represented by: Stowe, Lewis, Mills (iii), Mills (iv), White, Nixon, Cooke, Rouse, Gill, Harris, Edmunds, Dyke.

#### RESULTS

- |                    |    |   |
|--------------------|----|---|
| A.G.S. 1st XI.     | v. | Chipping Campden G.S. (home), won, 3—0.                         |
|                    | v. | Redditch C.H.S. (away), won, 6—3.                               |
|                    | v. | Worcester J.T.C. (home), lost 2—3.                              |
|                    | v. | Stratford Farmers (away), won, 4—2.                             |
|                    | v. | Birmingham University (Geographical Dept.)<br>(home), won, 3—2. |
|                    | v. | Evesham P.H.G.S. Colts (away), won, 3—1.                        |
| A.G.S. under 15 XI | v. | Alcester C. of E. 1st XI (home), won, 4—1.                      |
|                    | v. | Hugh Clopton 1st XI (away), lost, 0—1.                          |

### HOCKEY

*Captain:* S. Winspear. *Vice-Captain:* A. Lidgely. *Sec.:* A. Swinglehurst.

The first eleven, still more or less intact from last season, has been very successful, so far, having good victories over Chipping Campden, Worcester, Studley College and Ragley Ladies, and drawing with Redditch and Evesham. Unfortunately, a scratch second eleven started off very shakily by losing to Chipping Campden and Redditch. Nevertheless, gaining more confidence, they had good victories over Evesham and St. Faith's, Alcester, first eleven.

This year, at the Warwickshire Tournament, Leamington, the first eleven proved very successful in getting only three points less than the winners, Stoke Park. We must congratulate Ann Swinglehurst on being selected to play for the Warwickshire Junior second XI, and Pamela O'Nions as first reserve.

The first XI has been represented by: M. Scott, A. Lidgely, B. Pope, A. Davis, S. Winspear, J. Dixon, R. Highman, A. Swinglehurst, J. Rawbone, P. O'Nions, J. Bullock, A. Bluck and E. Manning.

The second XI has been represented by: F. Jackson, E. Manning, G. Clews, A. Holt, M. Norden, J. Holt, P. Fowler, C. Down, J. Burford, N. Goldby, A. Bluck, S. Hunt and M. James.

#### RESULTS

- |                         |    |   |
|-------------------------|----|---|
| A.G.S. 1st XI           | v. | Chipping Campden G.S. (home), won, 3—1.         |
|                         | v. | Redditch C.H.S. (away), drawn, 2—2.             |
|                         | v. | Evesham P.H.G.S. (away), drawn, 3—3.            |
|                         | v. | Worcester G.S. (home), won, 4—0.                |
| Warwickshire Tournament |    | Stoke Park 39 points, Alcester G.S. 36 points.  |
| A.G.S. 1st XI.          | v. | Studley College (home), won, 4—2.               |
|                         | v. | Ragley Ladies (home), won, 3—2.                 |
| A.G.S. 2nd XI.          | v. | Chipping Campden G.S. (home), lost, 0—2.        |
|                         | v. | Redditch C.H.S. (away), lost, 2—8.              |
|                         | v. | Evesham P.H.G.S. (away), won, 4—0.              |
|                         | v. | Worcester G.S. (home), lost, 0—1.               |
|                         | v. | Alcester C. of E. 1st XI (home), won, 8—2. S.W. |



**NETBALL**

We have not played any matches this term, the match against Studley College being cancelled because of bad weather. Practices have been held during dinner time on Tuesdays.

J.R.

**SUPPLEMENTARY RESULTS**

The following details of games could not be included last term:—

**CRICKET (Boys)**

- A.G.S. 1st XI. *v.* St. Philip's G.S. (away), lost, 44—46 for 4.  
*v.* Redditch C.H.S. (away), lost, 45—46 for 3.  
*v.* Worcester J.T.S. (away), abandoned through rain.  
*v.* Bromsgrove C.H.S. (home), lost, 45—46 for 6.  
*v.* Redditch C.H.S. (home), lost, 38—46.

*Sides:* Jackals 44 for 8 dec., Tomtits 40 for 5; Jackals 101 for 3 dec., Brownies 47; Tomtits 16 for 3, Brownies 15.

*Sides (Junior):* Jackals 42, Tomtits 2 for 1; Brownies 37 for 9, Jackals 36; Tomtits 36 for 3, Brownies 35.

**ANALYSIS**

	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>
A.G.S. 1st XI .. .. .	9	—	9

**TENNIS**

- A.G.S. 1st VI. *v.* Studley College (home), lost, 3 sets—6 sets.  
*v.* Bromsgrove C.H.S. (home), won, 9 sets—0 sets.  
*v.* Alcester Tennis Club (home), won, 5 sets—4 sets.  
*v.* Old Scholars (home), won, 5 sets—4 sets.  
*v.* Redditch C.H.S. (home), lost, 4 sets—5 sets.

*Sides:* Jackals 5, Tomtits 4; Brownies 7, Jackals 2; Brownies 6, Tomtits 3.

**ANALYSIS**

	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>
A.G.S. 1st VI .. .. .	8	4	4

**ROUNDERS**

- A.G.S. 1st IX. *v.* Bromsgrove C.H.S. (home), drawn, 3—3.  
A.G.S. 2nd IX. *v.* Bromsgrove C.H.S. (home), lost, 2—10.

*Sides:* Jackals 4½ and an innings, Brownies ½; Brownies 4, Tomtits 2½; Tomtits 3½, Jackals 3.

**ANALYSIS**

	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>
A.G.S. 1st IX. .. .. .	5	3	1	1
A.G.S. 2nd IX .. .. .	4	—	—	4

**CRICKET (Girls)**

- A.G.S. *v.* Kingsley School, Leamington (away), lost, 14—47.

**ANALYSIS**

	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>
A.G.S. .. .. .	3	1	1	1

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